



Congressman Jeff Flake

News Release

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Congressman Flake on Hunt for Solar-Powered Chainsaw

Will Scour Hardware Stores This Weekend

Washington, D.C. - Arizona Congressman Jeff Flake, who represents the state's First District and is a member of the House Resources Committee, couldn't help but chuckle at the suggestion that forest thinning be done with solar-powered chainsaws.

"We all know that some radical environmentalists have too much influence on our forest policy," said Flake. **"But it's clear that some also have too much time on their hands.**

"Since the beginning of the devastating fires in Colorado and Arizona many environmentalists finally conceded that some forest thinning is needed to prevent these types of severe fires. However, one group, Forest Guardians, suggests thinning the forest using solar-powered chainsaws. *Solar-powered chainsaws?* I know my way around the hardware store pretty well, but I've never seen the solar-powered chainsaw section.

"Forest management is a serious issue. Right now, we need serious input."

Kirsten Stade of Forest Guardians said in a June 25th article in the *East Valley Tribune* that the group supports forest thinning so long as it does not benefit commercial loggers and is done with solar-powered chainsaws.

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